THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A ferrule comprising:

first and second ferrule body portions joined along a parting line, wherein at least one of said ferrule body portions defines at least one optical fiber bore extending lengthwise through the ferrule,

wherein said first ferrule body portion has a first width, and wherein said second ferrule body portion has a second width that is smaller than the first width by at least 50 microns.

2. A ferrule according to Claim 1 wherein the width of said first ferrule body portion is defined to within a first tolerance, and wherein the width of said second ferrule body portion is defined to within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance.

3. A ferrule according to Claim 2 wherein the second tolerance of said second ferrule body portion is at least two times larger than the first tolerance of said first ferrule body portion.

4. A ferrule according to Claim 2 wherein said first and second ferrule body portions are capable of being offset in a widthwise direction by up to a maximum offset, and wherein the first width of said first ferrule body portion is larger than the second width of said second ferrule body portion by at least the sum of the first tolerance, the second tolerance, and two times the maximum offset between said first and second ferrule body portions.

5. A ferrule according to Claim 1 wherein said first and second ferrule body portions cooperate to define a ledge extending lengthwise along the parting line.

6. A ferrule according to Claim 1 wherein said first and second ferrule body portions cooperate to define a plurality of optical fiber bores such that the ferrule is a multifiber ferrule.

7. A mold for forming a ferrule, the mold comprising:

first and second mold components that mate along a parting line and that cooperate to define a mold cavity within which the ferrule is formed, wherein said first mold component defines the width of a portion of the mold cavity to within a first tolerance and said second mold component defines the width of another portion of the mold cavity to within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance,

wherein the portion of the mold cavity defined by said first mold component has a first nominal width and wherein the portion of the mold cavity defined by said second mold component has a second nominal width that is smaller than the first nominal width.

8. A mold according to Claim 7 wherein said first and second mold components are capable of being offset in a widthwise direction by up to a maximum offset, and wherein the first nominal width of the first mold component is larger than the second nominal width of the second mold component by at least the sum of the first tolerance, the second tolerance, and two times the maximum offset between the first and second ferrule body portions.

9. A mold according to Claim 7 wherein the second tolerance of said second mold component is at least two times larger than the first tolerance of said first mold component.

10. A mold according to Claim 7 wherein the second nominal width of said second mold component is smaller than the first nominal width of said first mold component by at least 50 microns.

11. A mold according to Claim 7 wherein at least one of said first and second mold components defines a plurality of optical fiber bores such that the resulting ferrule is a multifiber ferrule.

12. A method of fabricating a ferrule comprising:

forming a ferrule within a mold cavity defined by a mold having first and second mold components joined along a parting line; and

removing the ferrule from the mold after the ferrule is formed,

wherein forming the ferrule comprises:

forming a first ferrule body portion in the first mold component to within a first tolerance of a first nominal width; and

concurrently forming a second ferrule body portion in the second mold component to within a second tolerance of a second nominal width, wherein the second tolerance of the second ferrule body portion is larger than the first tolerance of the first ferrule body portion, wherein the second nominal width defined by the second ferrule body portion is smaller than the first nominal width defined by the first ferrule body portion, and

wherein the concurrent formation of the first and second ferrule body portions forms the ferrule.

13. A method according to Claim 12 wherein said forming step comprises offsetting the first and second mold components in a widthwise direction by up to a maximum offset, and wherein the first nominal width of the first mold component is larger than the second nominal width of the second mold component by at least the sum of the first tolerance, the second tolerance, and two times the maximum offset between the first and second ferrule body portions.

14. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the second tolerance of the second mold component is at least two times larger than the first tolerance of the first mold component.

15. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the second nominal width of the second mold component is smaller than the first nominal width of the first mold component by at least 50 microns.

16. A method according to Claim 12 wherein at least one of the first and second mold components defines a plurality of optical fiber bores such that said forming step comprises forming a multifiber ferrule.

add c3